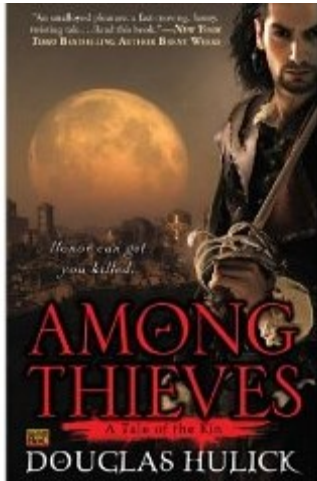


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Best Underrated Fantasy



Among Thieves

By Douglas Hulick

Ildrecca is a dangerous city if you don't know what you're doing. It takes a canny hand and a wary eye to run these streets and survive. Fortunately, Drothe has both. He has been a member of the Kin for years, rubbing elbows with thieves and murderers from the dirtiest of alleys to the finest of neighborhoods. Working for a crime lord, he finds and takes care of trouble inside his boss's organization—while smuggling imperial relics on the side.



The Emperor's Blades

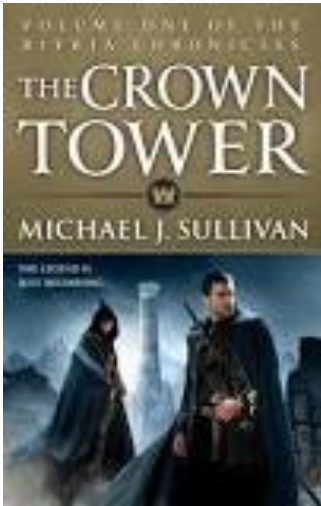
By Brian Staveley

The Emperor's Blades is jammed full of sheer coolness: we have inter-dimensional teleportation, victimized sorcerers, an adaptation of Buddhism that is literally guarding the world, a seriously creepy interpretation of elves, assassin squads on birds... the combination is explosive. And on top of that, the author doesn't shy away from dealing with issues of race, gender, sexuality, and especially class.

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The Crown Tower

By Michael Sullivan

Hadrian, a warrior with nothing to fight for, is paired with Royce, a thieving assassin with nothing to lose. Together they must steal a treasure that no one can reach. The Crown Tower is the impregnable remains of the grandest fortress ever built and home to the realm's most prized possessions. But it isn't gold or jewels that their employer is after, and if he can only keep them from killing each other, they might just get him his prize.



The Black Company

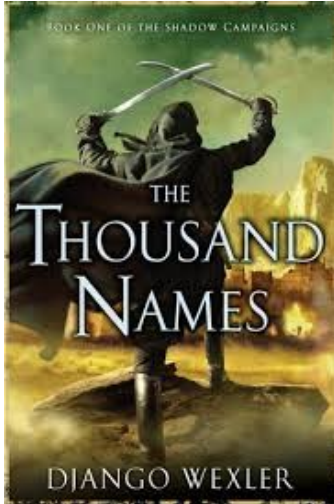
By Glen Cook

The Black Company, the first book in the series of the same name, tells the story of the Black Company, last of the Free Companies of Khatovar, the last of the Twelve True Companies. They are an elite mercenary force, hundreds deep at the moment, but once numbered in the thousands. Glen Cook immediately draws us into an action packed world that is free with death, unlike so many books where the death count seems miraculously non-existent.

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Best Underrated Fantasy



The Thousand Names

By Django Wexler

Captain Marcus d'Ivoire, commander of one of the Vordanai empire's colonial garrisons, was resigned to serving out his days in a sleepy, remote outpost. But that was before a rebellion upended his life. And once the powder smoke settled, he was left in charge of a demoralized force clinging tenuously to a small fortress at the edge of the desert.

To flee from her past, Winter Ihernglass masqueraded as a man and enlisted as a ranker in the Vordanai Colonials, hoping only to avoid notice. But when chance sees her promoted to command, she must win the hearts of her men and lead them into battle against impossible odds.